

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A voting apparatus for display of candidates for offices in elective races and selective voting by a voter to elect one of said candidates, comprising:

a central processor operative to present for display a sequential series of ballot screens, each ballot screen corresponding to one elective race and including a candidate information block having a text name and a graphic image associated with each of at least one candidate for election by voters in the elective race;

a touch-sensitive video display monitor communicating a signal representative of a selected location of a touch by a voter to the central processor, which touch is made at the display of the candidate information block for whom the voter intends to vote,

whereby the central processor detects which of the at least one candidate information blocks was selected by the voter;

a communicator to transfer the vote to a tabulator for summing the votes for the selected one of the at least one candidate; and

a validator responsive to the voting by the voter that endorses a voter validation receipt bearing a voter validation number with a validation indicia, whereby the authenticity of the voter validation receipt can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error;~~and~~

~~an accessor responsive to the voter validation number for selectively verifying the vote with an election result of the tabulator.~~

Claim 2 (original). The voting apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a pair of mirrored storage devices to record the summation of the votes by the tabulator.

Claim 3 (original). The voting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the central processor further displays a proposition screen having a recitation of the proposition and graphics images representative of the proposition and the negative of the proposition.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The voting apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a printer operatively connected to the central processor for printing the voter validation receipt.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the communicator further comprises a communications device for connecting the central processor to a vote tabulation center over a telecommunications network, whereby the summation of votes is communicated.

Claim 6 (original). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one speaker/headphones connected to the central processor for making an audible recitation to the voter of the names of the candidate prior to the voter voting.

Claim 7 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each ballot screen in the sequential series includes at least a return button that is selectively activated to return to a prior screen.

Claim 8 (original). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each candidate information block includes a positive graphic to indicate the selection of the candidate in

response to the voter selecting one of the candidate information blocks by touching the video screen.

Claim 9 (original). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the selected candidate information block in one of the ballot screens remains selected until the voter selects another of the candidate information blocks in said one of the ballot screens, whereupon the positive graphic in the selected candidate information block is changed to a negative graphic and the another of the candidate information blocks is changed to a positive graphic.

Claim 10 (original). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a summary screen providing a report of the selected candidates in the series of ballot screens and a vote selection button to finalize the vote of the voter.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising a printer operatively connected to the central processor for printing the voter validation receipt subsequent to the voter activating the vote selection button.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method of voting for one of at least one candidate for office in at least one elective races by a voter, comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying a sequential series of ballot screens, each ballot screen corresponding to one elective race and including a candidate information block associated with each of at least one candidate for election by voters in the elective race;

- (b) the voter touching a touch-sensitive video display monitor to communicating a signal representative of a selected location of a touch by a voter to a central processor, which

touch is made at the display of the candidate information block for whom the voter intends to vote, whereby the central processor detects which of the at least one candidate information blocks was selected by the voter; and

(c) validating a voter validation receipt containing a voter validation number associated with the voting by the voter, whereby the authenticity of the voter validation receipt can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error; ~~and~~

~~(d) selectively verifying through an accessor responsive to the voter validation number the vote of the voter with an election result tabulated by a vote tabulation center.~~

Claim 13 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of summing the votes for the selected one of the at least one candidate by a tabulator.

Claim 14 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step of recording the votes in a pair of mirrored storage devices.

Claim 15 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying a proposition screen having a recitation of a voter proposition and graphics images representative of the proposition and the negative of the proposition, for selection by the voter.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of printing the voter validation receipt subsequent to the voting by the voter.

Claim 17 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of communicating the vote of the voter to a vote tabulation center over a telecommunications network.

Claim 18 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of making an audible recitation to the voter of the names of the candidate prior to the voter voting.

Claim 19 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, s further comprising the step of selectively moving from one ballot screen to another of said ballot screens in sequence.

Claim 20 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying a positive graphic in the selected candidate information block.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The method of voting as recited in claim 20, wherein the positive graphic remains displayed in the selected candidate information block in said one of the ballot screens until the voter selects another of the candidate information blocks, whereupon the positive graphic in the selected candidate information block is changed to a negative graphic and the another of the candidate information blocks is changed to the positive graphic.

Claim 22 (original). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of providing a summary screen displaying the selected candidates in the series of ballot screens for verification prior to the voter finalizing the vote.

Claim 23 (previously presented). The method of voting as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of printing the voter validation receipt subsequent to the voter finalizing the vote.

Claim 24 (previously presented). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising prior to step (c) generating a voter validation number containing indicia of the voter and the voting by the voter.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The method of voting as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of the certifying the vote of the voter.

Claim 26 (previously presented). The method of voting as recited in claim 25, wherein certifying comprises the voter endorsing the voter validation receipt.

Claims 27 (currently amended). The method of voting as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of validation comprises applying a seal to the voter validation receipt or accessing a tabulation report that lists voter validation numbers, wherein the tabulation report may be available at the voting site or on an information site available via an interactive computer network.

Claims 28-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the voter validation receipt further comprises a certification by the voter of the vote.

Claim 31 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein the certification comprises a voter endorsement.

Claim 32 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the validation indicia comprises a signature of the poll worker.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the validation indicia comprises a seal applied by a poll worker to the voter validation receipt.

Claim 34 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the accessor comprises an interactive device accessible through a computer communication network.

Claim 35 (previously presented). The voter apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising an interactive network communicating with a vote tabulation center that receives the vote for a vote tabulation report.

Claim 36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (new). An election method for validation and verification of voting by a voter, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving by a central processor from a voter a vote for at least one ballot selection in an election;

(b) generating by the central processor a voter validation number containing first indicia of the voter associated with the voting by the voter; and

(c) providing a voter validation receipt containing the voter validation number.

Claim 38 (new). The election method of claim 37, further comprising the step of:

validating the voter validation receipt, whereby the authenticity thereof can be established at a later time if necessary to correct a vote tabulation error.